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DE RUEHPS #0680 2301729
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 181729Z AUG 06
FM USOFFICE PRISTINA
TO RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0367
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6393

UNCLAS PRISTINA 000680

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA AMGT ASEC YI
SUBJECT: AMENDED COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO BRAD BELL

REF: VIA EMAIL REQUEST

¶1. US Office Pristina welcomes and grants country clearance to Brad Bell to visit Pristina August 20-26, 2006. The purpose of the visit is to have introductory meetings with USOP, UNMIK, KFOR, and PISG officials. Control Officer is Political Officer Tracey Thornton, who can be reached at: office 381-38-549-516 ext. 3110; GSM 377-44-502-107; fax 381-38-549-890.

¶2. Post will make arrangements for transportation between airport and hotel and for official meetings during the visit. Accommodations have been confirmed at Hotel Victory, Tel# 038/543 277. The Hotel Victory accepts cash only. The room rate is Euro 73.91 a night, including breakfast.

¶3. Kosovo is a cash (Euro) economy. There are a few operating ATMs and some large stores and hotels take credit cards. Not all ATMs are reliable and personnel should use normal ATM safety precautions.

TDY personnel should bring sufficient cash or travelers' checks to cover all hotel and other incidental expenses and may exchange dollars for Euros from 9:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9:00am-11:30am each Thursday at the U.S. Office cashier. Only USOP accepts travelers' checks. Reverse accommodation is available at the end of the visit.

¶4. Security issues: The security situation in Kosovo is fluid and there is still risk from occasional episodes of violence; incidents of ethnic violence continue to occur. Land mines remain in some outlying areas. Civil society institutions generally do not yet meet Western standards. There is criminal activity against internationals, including purse snatching and residential break-ins and general precautions are recommended. KFOR is deployed throughout Kosovo. Electronic devices such as laptops (personal or official), PDA cell phones with cameras, and the like must be approved for use in USOP facilities by an ISSO in consultation with the RSO.

¶5. Travel to certain areas within Kosovo requires fully armored vehicles and advance RSO approval. To facilitate planning, please provide your travel itinerary to USOP before arrival, as same-day travel can be difficult to arrange. To provide appropriate access to USOP facilities, visitors must ensure all necessary security clearances are included with travel messages.

¶6. Please ensure ASEC tags are included to ensure proper distribution. Specific questions regarding security may be addressed to USOP's RSO or your control officer.

KAIDANOW